



FIG. 1. Hatchling *Batagur trivittata* recovered after being ingested by a large *Ptyas korros* at Lawkanandar Wildlife Park in Bagan, Myanmar.

that emerged since the previous inspection, and transfer these to a specialized rearing facility in the park.

On 19 April 2021 (0700 h), one of us (SHA) inspected the sandbank and found a *P. korros* (ca. 1.0 m total length) entrapped in the wire-mesh fence enclosing the sandbank. These snakes are commonly encountered on the grounds of LWP and in the surrounding farmland. The snake displayed an obvious bulge immediately posterior to the head that was preventing its passage through the fence. Suspecting the snake had swallowed an egg or hatchling turtle, SHA carefully extracted the snake from the wire-mesh and forced it to regurgitate the prey item, which proved to be a living *B. trivittata* hatchling (Fig. 1). The snake swallowed the hatchling head-first, possibly to avoid the sharp, rearward pointing serrations on the marginal scutes and keel spines characteristic of neonate and juvenile *B. trivittata* (Platt et al. 2020. *Zootaxa* 8821:394–400). That said, the shell of the newly emerged hatchling was soft and flexible, and consequently the predator deterrence value of these sharp projections would seem minimal until the structures harden. When recovered, the body of the hatchling appeared somewhat laterally compressed, but soon returned to a more typical shape. The hatchling otherwise appeared to suffer no ill-effects from being ingested by the snake and was transferred to the rearing facility where it remains alive at the time of this writing (June 2021). The snake was transported away from the lake and released unharmed.

To our knowledge, this is the first report of predators consuming eggs or hatchling *B. trivittata*. According to villagers we interviewed along the Chindwin River (Platt et al. unpubl. data), monitor lizards (*Varanus salvator* and *V. bengalensis*) may also be significant predators of eggs and hatchling *B. trivittata*, although this has yet to be confirmed by field studies. Moreover, our observation constitutes the first report of turtle consumption by *P. korros*. While general accounts suggest *P. korros* is a dietary generalist that consumes a wide variety of small vertebrate prey including frogs, lizards, birds, and mammals (Cox 1991. *The Snakes of Thailand and Their Husbandry*. Krieger Publ. Co., Malabar, Florida. 526 pp.; Das 2010. *A Field Guide to the*

Reptiles of Thailand and South-east Asia. Asia Books Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand. 376 pp.), empirically derived reports based on observations of prey consumption or analysis of stomach contents are largely absent from the scientific literature (Platt et al. 2017. *Herpetol. Rev.* 48:458–459). Thus, our observation also represents an important contribution to what is known about the diet of *P. korros*.

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CARETTA CARETTA (Loggerhead Sea Turtle). NESTING EXCHANGE. The Northwest Atlantic population of Loggerhead Sea Turtles (*Caretta caretta*) is one of the largest *C. caretta* populations in the world and is listed as threatened. This population was divided into five genetically distinct subpopulations, including the Northern Gulf of Mexico (NGoM) subpopulation (Shamblin et al. 2017 *Mar. Bio.* 164:138). Across the NGoM, the majority of *C. caretta* nesting occurs in Franklin and Gulf Counties, Florida, USA (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, <https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/sea-turtles/nesting/nesting-atlas/>). Few *C. caretta* nests are documented on Texas, USA, beaches and as such, less is known about the individuals that nest in Texas (see Shaver et al. 2020 *Front. Mar. Sci.* 7:1, Frandsen et al. 2020 *Herpetol. Rev.* 51:825) as compared to those that nest on beaches in the eastern part of the range (Lamont et al. 2014 *Mar. Biol.* 161:2659). Although *C. caretta* individuals have been tracked to Texas from nesting beaches throughout the southeastern USA (Hart et al. 2014. *PLoS ONE* 9:e103453), movements of *C. caretta* away from Texas beaches are rare. Here, we detail the nest site exchange of an adult female *C. caretta* that emerged and was tagged on the beach in Texas and then subsequently documented nesting in northwest Florida.

On 20 June 2010 an adult female *C. caretta* was observed on Mustang Island, Texas, by a beachgoer who was driving on the beach at night. At that time, the turtle was crawling up the beach towards the dunes. When the vehicle headlights illuminated her, she abruptly changed direction and started crawling back down the beach towards the ocean. A biologist with the Animal Rehabilitation Keep, University of Texas Marine Science Institute, arrived as the turtle was crawling towards the GoM and he was able to measure and photograph the turtle. In addition, he placed a metal Inconel tag (YYN971; National Band and Tag Company, Newport, Kentucky, USA) in the trailing edge of her left front flipper and he inserted a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag into her left front flipper (442F751A2B; Biomark, Boise, Idaho, USA). She did not nest during this emergence. At that time, the turtle measured 85.6 cm straight carapace length (SCL) and 68.9 cm straight carapace width (SCW).

On 8 July 2015 a female *C. caretta* was observed nesting at night on the St. Joseph Peninsula in northwest Florida (ca. 1200 km straight line distance from Mustang Island, Texas) by interns working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). This turtle was already carrying a left front flipper tag with the series YYN971 and a PIT tag (442F751A2B). The interns added an Inconel tag to the turtle's right front flipper (LLM564). Straight carapace measurements were not collected at that time, but curved carapace length (CCL) and width (CCW) were gathered and converted to SCL using the following formula from Teas (1993, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFSSSEFSC-315, 43 pp.): $SCL = -1.442 + (0.948 \times CCL)$. This conversion provided SCL measurements of 87.2 cm (original CCL 93.5 cm). This turtle was documented nesting again by USGS interns on the St. Joseph Peninsula on 29 July 2019, still carrying YYN971 in her left front flipper. Her right front flipper tag was missing so the turtle was given a new one (KKD136); the PIT tag applied in 2010 was detected. During the 2019 encounter, the turtle measured 86.9 cm SCL and 68.8 cm SCW.

These three observations demonstrate connectivity between sites at the extremes of the range for NGOM *C. caretta* (Texas and eastern northwest Florida). Few *C. caretta* from the NGOM have been documented in Texas (see Frandsen et al. 2020, Herpetol. Rev. 51:825). Of 44 *C. caretta* satellite tracked from nesting beaches in the NGOM, only one established a foraging site off the northern Texas coast (Hart et al. 2014, *op. cit.*). However, NGOM *C. caretta* exhibit relatively low fidelity to nesting sites both within and among nesting seasons (Hart et al. 2013, PLoS ONE 8:e66921). Lamont et al. (2014, Mar. Bio. 161:2659) suggested smaller females in the NGOM subpopulation exhibited lower fidelity to nesting beaches; the individual reported here was relatively small for a nesting adult which may help explain the exceptionally long-distance movements documented here.

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CHELODINA CANNI (Cann's Snake-necked Turtle). **PREDATION.** At 1555 h, on 5 June 2021, we observed a Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) capture and kill a sub-adult or young adult *Chelodina canni* in a shallow, vegetated wetland in Townsville, Queensland, Australia (19.40661°S, 146.73103°E; WGS 84). For 11 min, the *E. asiaticus* repeatedly tossed the *C. canni* in the air (catching or attempting to catch it in its bill), held it in its bill and flung it from side to side (sometimes flinging it against the water), and dropped it into the water followed by stabbing at it (Fig. 1). The *C. canni* initially kept its head and limbs tucked tightly into the shell, but the *E. asiaticus* repeatedly bit it near the edge of the shell, possibly grabbing the head or limbs. At 1600 h, the turtle's head was hanging limply (likely indicating it had died), and at 1603 h, the *E. asiaticus* held the turtle by its neck. Some shell damage was visible, but it was not clear if the *E. asiaticus* broke the shell, and the *C. canni* was swallowed whole at 1606 h.

Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus occasionally eats turtles, but this behavior has rarely been reported, and this is the first report of *C. canni* being taken. Interestingly, of the five reports of *E. asiaticus* consuming turtles of which we are aware, three were for *Chelodina* spp. (*C. canni* [present], *C. longicollis* [Clancy 2010, Corella 36:17–23], and *C. novaeguineae* [Lavery 1969, J. Agri. Sci.

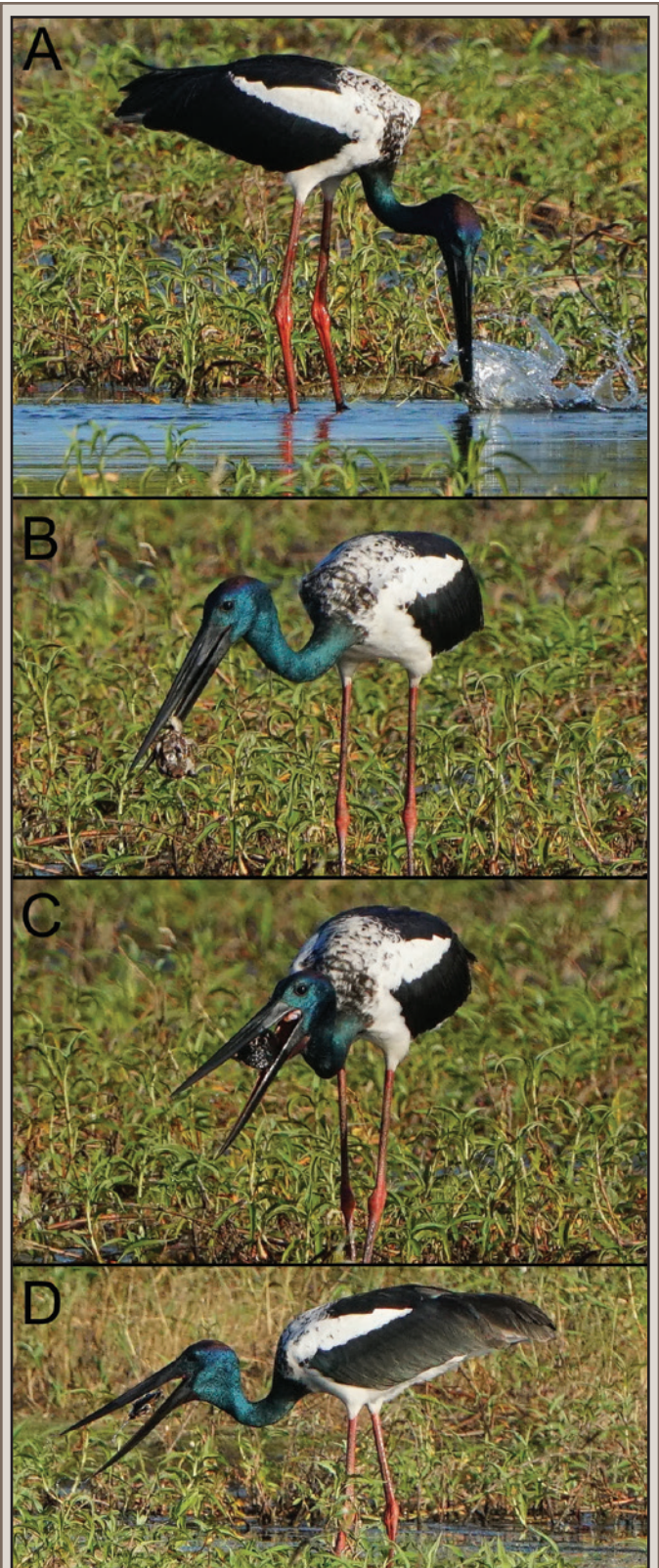


FIG. 1. *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* killing and consuming a *Chelodina canni* by: A) slamming it against the water; B) holding and swinging it by the neck; C) attempting to swallow (or possibly crush) it; D) tossing it in the air and catching it in its bill.

PHOTOS BY JLM (A–C) AND DTM (D)